THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There have been some cases of illegal landing, which were noted in April, 91, October and December, 92. A case against illegal landing of a helicopter in the Corbett Tiger Reserve has been instituted by the Government of Uttar Pradesh against the India International Airways Private Ltd. The Ministry has requested the State Government for early action in the case.

(c) No fresh measures are contemplated as the provisions under the Wildlife Protection Act are considered adequate.

(d) Does not arise.

National Parks affected by Militant Activities

1043. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Parks in India have transformed as New Heaven for terrorists; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that as many as seven of the Nineteen National Parks under Project Tiger are reported to be seriously affected by militant and naxalite activity; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that eleven National Parks are in serious trouble due to terrorist activity; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to clear off the National Parks from militant activity and with what success; the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d) While no Chief Wildlife Wardens have reported any National Park being in serious trouble due to terrorist activities, it is known that in some of the National Parks, Tiger Reserves and Wildlife Sanctuaries terrorists take shelter. The Tiger Reserves of Manas, Dudhawa, Corbett, Nagarjun Sagar and Indravati are the prominent protected areas affected by terrorist's residancy within their boundaries. Details of the other protected areas similarly affected and the extent of its impact on the management of the protected areas are being ascertained from the State Governments and will be laid on the table of the House. It may however, be mentioned that to combat illegal armed activity in protected areas, assistance is being given to State Governments for purchase of arms, better communication equipment and better transport facilities. In order to ensure that people in the forests or on the fringe areas do not fall prey to terrorist's propaganda, scheme for eco-development in and around protected areas is being implemented to enable the people to have employment, develop alternative sources of tree produce, improve cattle-stock, provide fodder etc.

Poaching in Wild Life Sanctuaries

1044. SHRI TRILOKINATH CHATURVEDI;
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI;

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that poaching in wild life sanctuaries and encroachment of forest land has become a common feature; if so, the number of incidents of poaching and encroachment that have come to the notice of Government from Madhya Pradesh,

Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh during the past six months;

(b) whether it is a fact that poachers have recently killed the forest personnel of Kailadevi forest and Ranthambore Tiger Sanctuary in Rajasthan and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have formulated any plan to combat the problem of poaching and encroachment, and if so, what are the details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The information is being collected from the concerned State Governments and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(b) On 10-4-93, two forest personnels were killed by Poachers near Kaila Devi sanctuary in the buffer area of Ranthambore Tiger Reserve.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to check Poaching/killing of Wild animals in the States are as under:

i. Central assistance is provided to State/UT Govts. for strengthening anti-poaching infrastructure.

ii. The Directorate of Wildlife Preservation through its network of Regional Offices and Sub Regional Offices keeps a check on trade in wildlife produce to prevent any illegal shipments.

iii. Raids are carried out by the Wildlife Authorities whenever information of illegal trading in wild animals reaches them.

iv. Cooperation of Police, Coast Guard and Army is also taken in apprehending the poachers and illegal traders.

v. India is extending full cooperation to other countries in preventing illegal international trade in its capacity as a Member of CITES.

Mangrove Action Project

1045. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mangrove Action Project (MAP) has urged the Union and the Orissa Governments to honour the commitment to the Ramsar Convention in protecting the Chila Lake; and

(b) what action has been taken by Government to act upon the request of the MAP ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) No proposal called the Mangrove Action Project (MAP) has been received. The Chilka Lake is designated as one of the wetlands under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention). An action plan for conservation of the Chilka lake has been prepared by the State Government of Orissa. The action plan includes measures for soil conservation, weed control, desiltation, wildlife protection and environmental awareness. An amount of Rs. 112.30 lakhs has been so far released to the State Government for implementation of this plan.

Poaching of Rhinos at the Kaziranga National Park

1046. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE :
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :